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DOCKING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1954

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and SURVEYOR

and the

Report of the

WATER SUPERINTENDENT

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DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE,
THE RECTORY,
WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA,
NORFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended 31st December, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1954 compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health.

1954 was the "Jubilee Year" of the Council—60 years have passed since the Local Government Act of 1894 established rural district councils as sanitary authorities. These past 60 years have seen the rise and development of environmental hygiene in this country and the application of the discoveries of the causes of infectious disease resulting in the decline in the crude death rate and particularly in the mortality from what were formerly spoken of as the zymotic diseases namely: smallpox, enteric fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and diarrhoea. The vital statistical figures for the district for the year 1894 are not available but those for that decade for England and Wales show that the death rate was 18.2 and the infant mortality was over 150. Diphtheria and enteric fever were very prevalent. Today these diseases have virtually disappeared as public health problems, although constant vigilance is still required to keep them in check.

1954 also saw the end of rationing which had begun in 1940—a long period which will probably be best remembered not because of any nutrition inadequacy but because of the inconveniences of ration books and queues.

The general health of the district has been good; although the school population suffered considerably during the earlier part of the year from an epidemic of measles.

The crude death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 was considerably lower than in the previous year. The birth rate continued to remain high but this is accounted for by the larger proportion of young adults in the population resulting from the existence of Service establishments in the district.

The recently published County Report on the 1951 Census brings to light the position in the district in regard to the degree of availability of certain basic household arrangements and indicates how far we lag behind the rest of the country. Considerable progress has been made, since the Census was taken, in the provision of new houses, extended water supplies and sewerage but much work remains to be done to meet the requirements of the district in respect of these three primary essential necessities.

I thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration shown to the Public Health Staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. COUTTS MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Docking Rural District Council.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. COUTTS MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. B. JENKINS, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

D. D. BUTTON, C.S.I.B.
(up to 31st May, 1954)

G. W. SANGER, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.
(as from 1st July, 1954)

Part Time Clerk :

MISS N. H. PULL

Waterworks Superintendent :

J. R. DRYSDALE

The Committee concerned with Public Health is the Public Health Committee.

PART I.

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1. Staff.

During the year Mr. D. D. Button, Additional Sanitary Inspector left to take up an appointment with another authority and Mr. G. W. Sanger was appointed in his place.

The post of Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health was not filled and the clerical work has been carried out by the existing staff at the Local Health Office, Wells, the three district Councils concerned contributing a proportion of the salary of one junior Clerk.

2. The **Docking Rural District** situated in North-West Norfolk comprises 30 parishes and has its administrative centre at Docking. The District is essentially an agricultural one although the 18 miles of coast provide facilities for the mussel industry and an attraction for summer visitors.

The population of the district as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1954 is 17,620. This shows an increase of 180 over the figure for 1953 and is only 10 less than the figure for 1952. The natural increase of births over deaths amounted to 95.

The recently published County Report on the 1951 Census showed that in the two decades between 1931 and 1951 the population increased by 7.7% and of this amount 6.4% was due to the increase of births over deaths. The parishes of Bircham, Dersingham, Heacham and Snettisham showed the most increase. In Bircham the increase was mostly in males due presumably to Service Establishments whilst in the other parishes mentioned the increase was mainly in females. The number of females was 1,037 per 1,000 males, compared with 1,014 per 1,000 males for the County. In passing it may be noted that Hunstanton showed the very high sex ratio of 1,300 females per 1,000 males. There is a marked "ageing" trend in the district as 14.4% of the population are aged 65 or over compared with 12.6% in the County and 10.9% in England and Wales.

3. Birth and Death Rate.

During the year there were 318 live births giving a birth rate of 18.0 per 1,000 of the population. The comparability factor given by the Registrar General which when applied to the local rate gives a figure which can be compared with the rates in other areas is 1.11 for births, giving an adjusted birth rate of 19.9 which compares with the rate of 15.2 for England and Wales as a whole. 21 illegitimate live births were recorded—6.6% of total births; a considerable reduction on the figure of 9% for 1953 but still higher than that of

the rest of the Country which is 4.6%.

The 223 deaths give a crude death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The comparability factor is 0.78 and this gives an adjusted rate of 9.8 which compares with that of 11.3 for England and Wales.

4. **Infant Mortality Rate.**

There were 11 deaths in children under one year—8 of them being less than 4 weeks old. The infant mortality rate is 34.5 per 1,000 related births compared with 25.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

The infant mortality rate has for some time been recognised to have two diverse components; the death rate for the first 4 weeks of life (neonatal rate) and the death rate for the remaining 11 months of the year (post-natal rate). It is the reduction in the post-natal deaths that has brought down the infant mortality rate. The deaths in the first 4 weeks are mainly due to prematurity, congenital malformation and birth injuries and these have not been reduced to the same extent. The causes of still births are often the same as those of neonatal deaths and so it has been proposed that a new index—called the perinatal rate—consisting of a combination of still births plus neonatal deaths—should be used as giving a better picture of infant mortality. The rate for the district for the year under review is 58.3 compared with a rate of 45.0 for the previous year.

5. **Cancer.**

41 of the deaths in the district were recorded from cancer of various types, 10 less than in 1953; 27 of these were males and 14 females. 8 of the deaths were from cancer of the stomach—all males and 2 were from cancer of the lung—both males. These two types of cancer are much more common in men than in women.

6. **Infectious Diseases.**

(a) **GENERAL.** There were 363 cases of infectious diseases during the year; an increase of 261 over the previous year, largely accounted for by the measles epidemic.

(b) **MEASLES.** 327 cases occurred, almost as many as in 1952; 299 of these were during the second quarter of the year, only one was under one year of age and 304 were between the ages of 1 and 10 years. This epidemic was in contradistinction to the experience in the rest of England and Wales where the incidence of the disease was particularly low.

(c) **WHOOPIING COUGH.** Only 3 cases were notified compared to 55 in 1953. All occurred during the first quarter of the year and

all were boys. No deaths were recorded as due to this disease.

Immunisation with whooping cough vaccine was introduced as a County Scheme in 1953 and is becoming increasingly popular. This vaccine can be given separately or combined with diphtheria antigen—the latter is now the recommended and popular one. Whooping Cough immunisation does not give so complete a degree of protection as that for diphtheria but if not prevented in all cases the severity of the attack is certainly lessened. The following table shows the number of children who were immunised against whooping cough in Area 8 in 1954.

<i>Age Group:—</i>	<i>under 1</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
With whooping cough vaccine alone	--	—	4	2	4	—	10
With combined whooping cough and diphtheria prophylactic	160	130	13	6	4	2	315
				Total	...		325

(d) SCARLET FEVER. There was a considerable increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever reported; 24 as compared with 8 the previous year; 14 were in school children. The disease continues to be mild in type; its greatest drawback is the loss of school time occasioned.

(e) DIPHTHERIA. No case was notified during the year. Only two cases have been recorded since 1941; one in 1943 and another in 1950. The position in regard to this disease in England and Wales is particularly gratifying as in the last 10 years the incidence has fallen from over 18,600 cases with 720 deaths in 1945 to 182 cases and only 9 deaths in 1954. The need however for securing immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday and for maintaining immunity throughout school life still remains and as the Minister of Health says "Parents of young children must not be lulled into a false sense of complacency by the dramatic fall in the incidence of diphtheria and the rarity of its occurrence amongst the children of friends and neighbours."

(f) POLIOMYELITIS. No case was reported during the year and there has been none since November, 1951.

One cannot mention poliomyelitis without saying a word about the recent work in U.S.A. on the production of a vaccine against this disease. Large scale trials of a new vaccine have shown that it is 80—90% effective in preventing paralytic poliomyelitis in immunised children. But the hopes raised by this wonderful report have been dampened by a later report of cases of paralysis occurring soon after inoculation with the new vaccine. It is to be hoped that before long

a safe effective vaccine for preventing this disabling disease will be available.

(g) **MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS.** One fatal case in a young adult was notified during the year.

(h) **DYSENTERY.** One sporadic case of sonne dysentery was notified in February.

(i) **TUBERCULOSIS.** Only 7 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 15 in 1953; the lowest number for over the past ten years. Of the 7, 2 were transferred cases; all were pulmonary in type, 5 being males. At the end of the year 73 cases remained on the register—a decrease of 11 from the previous year.

As from the 1st January, 1954; new cases of tuberculosis have been included in the weekly returns of notifications of infectious diseases made to the Ministry of Health; the intention being to provide statistics which will be of value to the Medical Officer of Health.

In April the Ministry of Health issued a memorandum on the prevention of tuberculosis. This drew attention to the marked fall in the number of deaths from tuberculosis during the past 5 years but that this improvement had not been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the number of notifications. It noted that mass miniature radiography units were under the control of Regional Hospital Boards but stated that the strategy of their use should be a matter for consultation between the Unit Director and the County Medical Officer and urged the selective use of such units for groups showing evidence of special risk.

(j) **FOOD POISONING.** No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

7. Milk and Dairies Regulations.

No order was made during the year to restrict the sale of milk. Two restrictions imposed in previous years on account of Brucella infection remained in force at the end of the year.

8. National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was called for under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act of 1948.

9. Housing.

The 1951 Census report for the County of Norfolk contains information about the availability of certain basic household arrangements, viz. piped water supply, cooking stove, kitchen sink,

water closet and bath for private households. This has been the first occasion on which such information has been asked for in a census return and the report states that it is thought that the record as set out in the tables gives a sufficiently accurate broad picture of conditions in respect of these household arrangements, more particularly in illustrating relative conditions in different parts of the Country. The following table gives the percentage of private households without exclusive use of certain household arrangements, for the 3 districts in area 8 and also for England and Wales and for the aggregate of rural districts.

<i>Percentage of Private Households without exclusive use of</i>	<i>In Docking R.D.</i>	<i>In Walsingham R.D.</i>	<i>In Wells U.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Aggregate of Rural Districts in Norfolk</i>	<i>In Norfolk County</i>
Piped water supply	56	58	27	17	53	37
Kitchen sink ...	49	46	26	13	—	27
Water closet ...	73	61	61	21	64	40
Cooking stove ...	5	13	4	7	17	12
Fixed bath ...	70	72	55	—	67	59

Households **with**
exclusive use of
all 5 arrangements
detailed above ...

20	23	33	53	—	37
----	----	----	----	---	----

Although the figures for this district are in line with those for other rural districts in Norfolk they do serve to show how far behind the rest of the Country we are and they justify, if such is needed, the policy of extending the provision of piped water supplies and sewerage systems throughout the district. It is not, however, enough to lay a water main or sewerage drain, the owner or occupier must also connect up his house.

I am indebted to Mr. G. E. Gibson, the Council's Surveyor and Housing Officer, for the following additional information.

Since the war the Council has erected 378 dwellings, 77 of these were completed during the period April 1954—April 1955. The majority of these were the 3 bedroom type. The remainder consist of 2 bedroom bungalows which my Council felt served the dual purpose of meeting the demand, to some extent, of small or childless families and old persons.

With the exception of 8 "Unity" Houses now in course of construction in the parish of North Creake, the Council has adhered to the policy of erecting traditional type dwellings.

The cost of the Houses (Traditional) including Sewerage and

Roadworks is approximately £1,500 each and the Bungalows £1,250 each. This creates rents of £1 per week for Houses and 18s. 7d. per week for Bungalows, exclusive of Rates.

The Council owns 521 pre-war dwellings which with the 378 dwellings erected since the war makes a total to date of 899. The Council allocates £9 10s. 0d. per dwelling to the Repairs Fund making a total of £8,540 per annum. The total expenditure during the year 1954—1955 was £9,680 and the excess was met out of Balances.

The Ministry's policy to require a Sewage Disposal Works to be provided on new estates with 8 or more dwellings has increased the work of the department. As a result Sewage Disposal Works have been constructed at Snettisham (Parkside), Docking (Northcote), Brancaster (Mill Hill), East Rudham (Groveside), Bircham (Fring Road), North Creake (Dunns Lane) and Thornham (Castle Cottages). Schemes are in course of preparation for the Housing Sites at Dersingham (Gelham Manor Estate and Dodds Hill), Burnham Market (Sutton Estate) and Syderstone (Mill Lane).

With the completion of the District Water Scheme requests are continuing to be made by tenants of pre-war dwellings for Sanitary Improvement Schemes and the Council has decided that where the tenants agree to pay the necessary extra rent to cover the cost these schemes can proceed. 92 dwellings have been treated to date.

The schemes include the provision of sinks, W.C.s and Baths and in several cases structural alterations and additions have had to be made to accommodate these fittings. In a few cases tenants have requested hot water systems and these are being provided. According to the extent of the improvement the rent increases have been between 2/- and 6/- per week. Improvement Schemes are in course of preparation for Brancaster (Marsh Side) and Rudham (Eye Lane and Fakenham Road).

Considerable numbers of the older type Cooking Ranges are requiring replacement and the Council has adopted the policy of installing New Vitreous Enamel Free Standing Ranges which can easily be adapted to receive hot water installation if required.

With regard to the future of new Housing Schemes, the Ministry has cut the annual allocation to 15 dwellings for 1955, together with a further allocation, yet to be decided, to re-house families still living in temporary Huttled Camp Sites at Sunderland Farm and Brancaster Road sites, Docking. Difficulty has been experienced in acquiring a site at Fakenham Road, Docking, for this purpose.

Of the 15 Houses allocated for 1955, the Council has decided to extend the Contracts at Mill Hill, Brancaster, by 4 Houses and at Sedgeford by 4 Bungalows. A specially designed block of 6 bungalows for aged persons is being erected at Snettisham and includes 2 one bedroom units.

In general, the housing needs, particularly of the worst cases, is being met despite the reduction in allocation and the "hard core" of the waiting list is 100, excluding families to be dealt with under Slum Clearance. However, apart from the general housing needs of the district, the Council is vigorously proceeding with the Slum Clearance Survey and the Housing Committee is being kept fully informed of the position in order to be ready with sites and new dwellings to re-house the displaced families.

With regard to the Scheme for the Council assisting persons to acquire their own homes under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 18 applications have been dealt with during 1954—1955, and loans advanced in 17 cases.

It is also interesting to note that since the war 153 private dwellings have been erected in the district, of which 31 were completed during the period March, 1954—April, 1955.

10. **Slaughterhouses.**

The decontrol of meat in July resulted in the licensing of a number of private slaughterhouses. Additional work was in consequence thrown upon the Sanitary Inspector and his staff in respect of meat infection. To meet this need steps were taken to fill the vacant post of additional sanitary inspector.

11. **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

(a) VACCINATION. Only 163 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during 1954 in Area 8 comprising the Rural Districts of Walsingham and Docking and the Urban Districts of Wells and Hunstanton. There were 852 births during the year in the Area so that only the equivalent of 19% of the children born were vaccinated—a far from satisfactory state of affairs. This figure however is likely to be an under estimate as births among American Service families are included in the total number of births but figures of the number of American babies vaccinated are not available. 194 reports of primary vaccinations and 32 re-vaccinations were received during the year. The following table gives details of the age groups:—

<i>Age Group</i>		<i>Vaccinated</i>	<i>Re-Vaccinated</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	163	—
Aged 1 year ...	...	10	—
2 to 4 years ...	...	3	—
5 to 14 years ...	...	2	2
15 years and over	...	16	30
Totals		194	32

(b) **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.** Diphtheria immunisation is best carried out during the last quarter of the child's first year of life and booster doses are required to be given at the ages of 5 and 9 years. Immunisation is carried out at Infant Welfare Centres and surgeries and re-immunisation at school medical inspections.

The following table shows the number of children who were immunised during the year in Area 8.

<i>Primary Immunisation</i>							
<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total</i>
232	179	24	14	10	55	3	517

<i>Booster Doses</i>		
<i>5 to 9 years</i>	<i>10 to 14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
606	171	777

The number of children in Area 8 at 31.12.54, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date is as follows :—

<i>Age at 31.12.54 i.e. born in year</i>	<i>Under 1 1954</i>	<i>1 to 4 1953-50</i>	<i>5 to 9 1940-45</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>Total Under 15</i>
Last complete course of injections—whether primary or booster.	29	1590	1214	175	3008
1949 or earlier ...	—	—	1281	2354	3635
			Total ...		6643

PART II.

(Medical Statistics)

Table 1. General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	87,386
Estimated Resident Population...	17,620
Rateable Value	£72,978
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£283

Table 2. Live Births.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	163	134	297
Illegitimate	10	11	21
Total	173	145	318

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 18.05

Table 3. Still Births.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	6	2	8

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 0.45

Table 4. Deaths (all ages).

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
	126	97	223

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 12.66

Table 5. Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under One year).

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	9	2	11

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 34.59

Table 6. Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of age.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	6	1	7
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	7	1	8

Table 7. Cause of Deaths of Infants under One Year.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prematurity ...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Broncho pneumonia ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Acute pneumonia ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	...	9	2	11

Table 8. Cause of Total Deaths.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	8	—	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lym- phatic neoplasms ...	...	...	...	17	9	26
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	22	20	42
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	19	12	31
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	5	2	7
20. Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	14	14	28
21. Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	6	8	14
22. Influenza ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	5	7	12
24. Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	3	1	4
25. Other disease of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	...	...	...	4	1	5
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	3	—	3
31. Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	9	11	20
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	—	1	1
34. All other accidents ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
35. Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Total	...	...	...	126	97	223

Table 9. Deaths according to Ages. (Including Outward Transfers)

		Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year ...	...	9	2	11
1 and under 5	...	—	—	—
5 " " 10	...	1	1	2
10 " " 20	...	—	—	—
20 " " 30	...	1	1	2
30 " " 40	...	—	2	2
40 " " 50	...	5	2	7
50 " " 60	...	14	5	19
60 " " 70	...	20	17	37
70 " " 80	...	47	27	74
80 " " 90	...	28	27	55
90 " " 100	...	2	7	9
		127	91	218
Total Adjusted	...	126	97	223

Table 10. Cancer. The following table shows the incidence of Cancer Deaths during the past 5 years:—

			1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Males	...	...	21	14	21	26	27
Females	...	...	18	23	14	25	14

Table 11. Summary of Vital Statistics.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population	17,290	17,450	17,630	17,440	17,620
Live Births	299	288	294	309	318
Still Births	5	5	7	2	8
Deaths	209	255	198	259	223
Infant Deaths	11	11	7	12	11

Table 12. Summary of Births and Deaths Rates.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Live Births	17.29	15.87	16.67	17.14	18.05
Still Births	0.29	0.28	0.39	0.11	0.45
Crude Deaths	12.09	10.46	11.23	14.85	12.66
Infant Mortality	36.79	36.79	23.8	38.83	34.59

Table 13(a). Infectious Diseases.

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	11	3	4	2	24
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Measles	1	38	73	192	18	5	-	327
	1	38	77	205	21	10	2	354

Table 13(b).

	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Ac. Pneumonia	-	1	4	-	-	5
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	1
Jaundice	-	2	-	-	-	2
	-	3	6	-	-	9

Table 14. Birth Rates and Mortality Rates for 1954. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

		<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)</i>	<i>160 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)</i>	<i>Docking Rural District</i>
BIRTHS					
Live Births	...	15.2	16.86	15.60	18.05
Still Births	...	0.36	0.44	0.36	0.45
DEATHS.					
All causes	...	11.3	12.04	11.39	12.66
All Deaths causes under 1 year of age		25.5	29.02	23.79	34.59

Table 15. Measles and Whooping Cough.

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Measles	...	273	23	403	11	327
Whooping Cough	...	58	31	55	55	3

Table 16. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases during 1954)

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	1	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—
5	1	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—
25	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	1	—	—	—
Total	5	2	—	—
Grand Total	7			

Table 17. Tuberculosis. (Number of Cases on T.B. Register end 1954).

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	...	37	27	64
Non-Pulmonary	...	6	3	9
Total	...	43	30	73

Table 18. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases for last 5 years)

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Pulmonary	M.	7	5	6	9	5
	F.	6	10	4	5	2
Non-Pulmonary...	M.	4	5	—	1	—
	F.	4	4	3	—	—
		21	24	13	15	7

PART III.

Annual Return of Sanitary Inspector.

Details of Inspections and Notices Served, Etc.

Inspections and Visits.

The numbers of inspections and visits made in connection with the various branches of public health work during the year are as follows :—

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act 1936, for				
abatement of nuisances, in connection with water supplies, drainage				
work, building byelaws, etc.	...	...	...	335
Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949	...	...	...	80
Housing, for repairs, etc	...	...	...	205
Interviewing applicants for Council houses prior to reporting to Tenants'				
Selection Sub-Committee	...	...	...	82
Factories Act 1937	...	...	...	12
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	12
Food Premises for food inspection, food byelaws and Food and Drugs				
Act requirements, including ice-cream premises	...	...	...	73
Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops for meat inspection	...	...	...	256
Administration of Public Cleansing Schemes	...	...	...	675
Control of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	40
Pests Act 1949	...	...	...	12
Supervision of Public Conveniences	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	81

Notices.

(a) PRELIMINARY. The following preliminary notices were served requiring the provisions of the various Acts to be complied with :—

Housing Act 1936	...	16
Public Health Act 1936	...	24
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	2
Food and Drugs Act 1938	...	3

(b) STATUTORY. One statutory notice was served during the year, under the Public Health Act 1936, requiring a satisfactory water supply to be provided to an occupied house.

Housing.

SLUM CLEARANCE. The Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954, which came into operation in August 1954, made it incumbent on all Local Authorities to commence a survey to ascertain what houses were unfit for human habitation. The survey was started in November, but owing to shortage of staff, etc., little progress was made with it by the end of the year.

Improvement Grants. Housing Act 1949.

During the year, 23 applications were received for Improvement Grants; of these, 3 were withdrawn, 6 were not approved, and 14 grants were made.

These grants assisted in the cost of improving 23 houses, comprising 4 Almshouses, 7 tenanted cottages and 12 houses which are owner-occupied.

The total amount of grants approved was £3428 18s. 5d., an average of approximately £149 for each dwelling improved.

The total estimated cost of improvements to the 23 houses amounted to £7700, an average of approximately £335 per house.

The average amount of grant, as a percentage of the estimated cost, was approximately 44%.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932—Unfit Houses, Etc.

1. Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	28
2. Number of houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	...	...	28
3. Number of representations made to Local Authority <i>re</i> repairs or demolition or closing orders	...	...	8
4. Number of Notices served requiring repairs	...	...	16
5. Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal Notices	...	...	NIL
6. Number of demolition or closing orders made	...	...	2
7. Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	...	...	4
8. Number of houses demolished	...	...	NIL

Food Premises.

The numbers of food premises in the area, by way of type or business, are as follows:—

Butchers	...	...	20
Bakehouses	...	...	22
Fish Friers	...	...	10
Restaurants	...	17 plus school canteens	
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	60
Grocers, which include many premises which are registered to sell ice-cream	...	...	90

The number of food premises registered under Sec. 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949, are as follows:—

Ice-cream Premises	...	...	60
Meat Preserving premises	...	...	20
Dairies	...	...	9

Number of inspections of registered food premises 33

Disposal of condemned food is by burial, either at the premises at which deposited for the purpose of sale, or at refuse tips.

Meat Inspection.

During the year, in July, de-control of slaughtering was introduced, and the Government placed on Local Authorities the responsibility of securing that sufficient slaughtering facilities would

be available after de-control. This meant that urgent attention had to be given to (a) the question of providing public slaughtering accommodation, which in the time allowed, was out of the question, or (b) the licensing of private slaughterhouses which had been out of use since 1940.

All the butchers in the district were consulted about the arrangements that would have to be made for the supply of meat, and the majority were of the opinion that a return to private slaughtering would be welcomed.

The butchers were informed that the Council would give favourable consideration to applications for the licensing of private slaughterhouses, providing the premises were brought up to a reasonable standard, prescribed by the Council, and as required by Sec. 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938.

Before the end of July, 13 slaughterhouses had been brought up to the required standard, and were accordingly licensed.

Owing to varying times of killing and the scattered locations of the slaughterhouses, the inspection of meat presented a problem, and it soon became evident that the existing staff could not cope with this, and all the other work of the department. It was decided, therefore, in October, to fill the vacant post of Additional Sanitary Inspector, who was appointed in November and commenced duties on 1st January, 1955.

The number of visits made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops from July to December was 256.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

			<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	...	...	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	...	...	197	9	157	374
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	...	...	Nil	Nil	3	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	18	Nil	2	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis			9.13	Nil	3.14	2.13
Tuberculosis only. Whole Carcases						
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	...	...	15	Nil	Nil	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	8.62	Nil	Nil	1.33

Public Cleansing.

(a) CESSPOOLS AND LAVATORY PAIL EMPTYING. In the Combined Scavenging Area, comprising the parishes of Heacham, Snettisham, Docking, Ringstead, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy

and South Creake, the emptying of cesspools and lavatory pails was carried out regularly, a special rate being levied in these parishes for these services. Lavatory pails were emptied weekly, and twice weekly where necessary. Cesspools were emptied 4 times a year free of charge, emptying in excess of this number being charged for.

Number of cesspools emptied (excluding Burnham Overy)	750
Number of emptyings carried out " "	1580

OUTSIDE THE COMBINED SCAVENGING AREA. All Council houses cesspools were emptied when required, and cesspools of private houses were emptied upon request, as and when circumstances permitted, a charge being made for this purpose.

Number of Council house cesspools emptied	...	...	70
Number of emptyings carried out	...	...	412
(Number of cesspools emptied at Gelham Manor	18)		
(Number of emptyings carried out at Gelham Manor	276)		
Number of private cesspools serviced	...	...	162
Number of emptyings carried out	...	...	224

(b) **REFUSE COLLECTION.** The collection of house refuse was continued throughout the year, the rota of collections being fortnightly in every parish in the district with the exception of Heacham, Ringstead, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy and Docking. In these five parishes weekly collections were given.

Owing to various reasons, which were reported from time to time to the Public Health Committee, this frequency of collections was not always maintained. Consideration was given to ways in which the service could be improved, but nothing definite in the way of improvement was decided by the end of the year.

Water Supplies.

(a) **PUBLIC SUPPLY.** In collaboration with the Water Department, 39 samples of water were taken from the Council's Public Supply.

Of these 38 were reported as being highly satisfactory, and one sample was considered to be slightly polluted, but not in any way enough to cause concern over the purity of the supply.

(b) **PRIVATE WELLS.** 14 samples of water were taken from private wells. Of these, 8 were reported as being unsatisfactory, 2 suspicious and 4 were satisfactory. In all cases, with one exception (where the well supply was chlorinated), it was possible, by means of informal and statutory action, to get the premises having unfit supplies connected to the mains supply.

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries into cases of infectious diseases	...	...	19
Fumigations after infectious diseases	...	...	10

PART IV.

Annual Report of Waterworks Superintendent, 1954.

Waterworks Department,
The Mount, Docking.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the period 1st January, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, for your consideration :—

WATER CONSUMPTION.

<i>Source</i>	<i>Total Quantity Pumped and Purchased</i>	<i>Average Daily Quantity</i>
GREAT BIRCHAM BOREHOLES	50,215,000 Gallons	137,560 Gallons
FRING BOREHOLES	26,409,000 Gallons	72,350 Gallons
HEACHAM BULK SUPPLY	19,921,000 Gallons	54,570 Gallons
HOUGHTON BULK SUPPLY ...	758,000 Gallons	
	<u>97,303,000 Gallons</u>	

PUMPING COSTS.

<i>Station</i>	<i>Electricity Units Consumed</i>	<i>Total Cost £ s. d.</i>	<i>Cost per Thousand Gallons</i>
GREAT BIRCHAM	85,389	715 12 5	3.41 Pence
FRING	43,725	318 8 4	2.89 Pence
	<u>129,114</u>	<u>£1,034 0 9</u>	

BULK SUPPLY PURCHASES.

	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Cost per Thousand Gallons</i>
HEACHAM ...	664 0 8	8d.
HOUGHTON ...	60 17 0	1/6d.

STORAGE.

RESERVOIR, THE MOUNT, DOCKING ...	400,000 Gallons
WATER TOWER, THE MOUNT, DOCKING	225,000 Gallons
WATER TOWER, DOCKING VILLAGE ...	30,000 Gallons
RESERVOIR, INMERE	300,000 Gallons
WATER TOWER, HEACHAM	50,000 Gallons
Total	<u>1,005,000 Gallons</u>

Pumping Stations.

(a) FRING. The quantity of water pumped from this Station increased by approximately three million gallons during the year, showing an increase of some 12.6%

No. 2 Pump is shortly due for major overhaul and the necessary spares have been placed on order.

The installation of the Automatic Chart Recording apparatus for use in connection with the Hypo-Chlorinator has been completed, enabling the chlorine dosage to be accurately and permanently recorded.

The Well Levels are as follows :—

		<i>October, 1953</i>	<i>October, 1954</i>
Rest Level ...	...	11 ft. 6 in.	8 ft. 6 in.
Pumping Level	...	18 ft. 6 in.	16 ft. 6 in.

External painting has been carried out to the Station Buildings and the concrete paths have been extended.

(b) GREAT BIRCHAM. The Pumping Plant has operated satisfactorily and normal maintenance duties only have been required.

As a result of modification to the electricity layout, it has been possible to effect a saving in electricity charges.

A number of pressure tests have been taken on the Pumping Main for the purpose of determining the effect of surge pressures which occur as a result of conditions arising from automatic operation of the pumps. Certain remedial measures are being contemplated with a view to damping down the surge and reducing the risk of main fractures.

Well Levels at this Station are as follows :—

		<i>October, 1953</i>	<i>October, 1954</i>
Rest Level ...	...	20 ft. 0 in.	15 ft. 0 in.
Pumping Level	...	41 ft. 0 in.	30 ft. 0 in.

Commencing at the middle of November the Well Levels at this Station rose rapidly and by 31st December the rest levels recorded were approximately 4ft below Pump House Floor Level which indicates that the water table in this area was standing at 115 ft. above Ordnance Datum.

(c) GENERAL. Strict supervision has been exercised over the purity of the water and in collaboration with the Council's Public Health Department, a total of 39 samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for Bacteriological Examination.

DISTRIBUTION.

District Scheme.

Further progress has been made in connection with the connection of consumers to the Mains supply and the installation of Venturi Recording Instruments at The Mount has enabled the distribution of water on the District Scheme to be accurately checked. The Recorders, which are of the most up to date type, are capable of measuring flows of up to 30,000 gallons per hour and a continuous and permanent record of consumptions is provided by strip chart mechanism.

An interesting feature of the installation is that the Recording Instruments are located some 200 feet from the Venturi Tubes and the pressures are conveyed to the instruments by means of Polythene Plastic Piping.

Bye-pass Valves installed at various points on the line of trunk mains, provide for the use of the portable Waste Recording Meter for checking consumptions to individual parishes. The connections may also be used for chlorination and pressure recording points.

With the completion of the Meter Repair and Testing Shop, regular and systematic changing of meters has commenced. The Council now has over 400 metered supplies and in order to maintain meters in a high state of efficiency, a programme of changing each meter at intervals of not more than 4 years has been embarked upon. The use of pre-cast concrete Meter Chambers and Flexible Couplings considerably facilitates easy and rapid changing of meters.

NEW SUPPLIES.

New Supplies connected during the year are as follows :—

		<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Metered</i>	<i>Special Charges</i>	<i>Total</i>
DISTRICT SCHEME	...	160	43	20	223
DERSINGHAM AND HEACHAM		24	21	10	55
Totals	...	184	64	30	278

In July the Department was called upon to deal with an urgent situation which arose in the village of Thornham. For many years a large number of properties in this village had obtained their water supply from a private supply, unfortunately, the main supplying the properties burst and as it would have been necessary to relay a large section in order to effect satisfactory repairs, the owner decided to abandon the supply and connect all properties to the Council's

Main Supply. This involved connecting some 35 cottages and I am pleased to report that the work was completed with the minimum of delay and inconvenience.

Several supplies involving the use of large quantities of pipe were completed and included laying a supply some 2,000 yards in length to Rudham Grange, and it is interesting to report that during the year some 28,000 feet of steel tubing, varying in diameter from $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch was used by the Department in connection with new supplies.

MAINS EXTENSIONS.

Mains extensions have been carried out as follows :—

MILL HILL, BRANCASTER	...	...	100 Yards
DUNNS LANE, NORTH CREAK	...	...	120 Yards
CHURCHILL ESTATE, SOUTH CREAK	...	...	30 Yards
BUNGALOW TOWN, BRANCASTER STAITHE	...	...	250 Yards

A $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter copper supply pipe was laid on Heacham Beach to replace a main which was badly damaged by the flood of 1953.

The erection of the new Sea Bank necessitated re-laying approximately 600 yards of main at Jubilee and South Beach Roads, Heacham, and Beach Road, Snettisham. This work was carried out by the Great Ouse River Board Contractors under the supervision of the Water Department Staff.

A temporary 1-inch supply pipe of 700 yards in length was laid at Snettisham Beach to provide facilities for Bungalow and Caravan occupants.

Mains Repair and Maintenance.

Mains fractures have normally been repaired with the minimum of inconvenience to consumers, but heavy vehicles and machinery used in connection with the new Sea Bank at Heacham North Beach caused serious damage to the 3-inch main situated at that point and it was necessary to relay some 300 yards.

Reservoir and Water Towers.

Work in connection with maintenance of Reservoirs and Water Towers has been carried out during the year and at Heacham Tower the asphalt roof has been renewed and the brick copings repaired.

At Inmere Reservoir a chain link fence has been erected to replace the damaged thorn hedge.

General.

The Council has decided to build a further 3 houses at The Mount, Docking, to provide additional accommodation for staff, and work of erection has commenced. When these dwellings are completed all officers of the Water Department will be housed at Docking.

In January Mr. B. Wilson was appointed to the post of Water Inspector and he commenced his duties on 1st March.

New Bye-Laws for the prevention of Waste, Misuse or Contamination, became operative on 1st July, this has required strict control over new installations and I am pleased to report that Builders and Plumbers throughout the district have generally proved both helpful and co-operative in ensuring that the new requirements are complied with.

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance rendered to me by the Chairman and Members of the Water Committee, the Clerk and Officers of the Council, and it is with pleasure that I record my thanks to the members of my Department for their loyal and efficient service during the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. DRYSDALE,

Waterworks Superintendent.

